THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Sir, telephone directory on CD-ROM has been made available on sale basis at M.T.N.L. Delhi and Mumbai in addition to the conventional printed telephone directory.

(b) the telephone numbers of the subscribers can be retrieved using a computer having the capabilities to read CD-ROM. In addition name and address can be searched for a given telephone number.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The issue of telephone-directory on CD-ROM on sale basis is in the experimental stage.

STD/ISD booths in Andhra Pradesh

2340. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Telecom has failed to provide sufficient number of STD/ISD booths at important public places like Railway Station, Bus Stations and Hospitals;

(b) whether it is a fact that very few telephone facilities are available at such places in Vijayawada, Guntur, Rajahmundary and Visakhapatnam;

(c) the reasons for ignoring telecom needs of the public;

(d) the details of present telecom facilities available at each of the four cities mentioned above;

(e) what steps will be taken to increase three fold or more telephone facilities at all Railway Stations at major towns in Andhra Pradesh;

(f) whether frequent surveys are being conducted to systematically increase telecom facilities at public places in Andhra Pradesh; and

(g) the details of such surveys?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (g) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.

Telecom Infrastructure in West Godavari

2341. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether any specific representations were received by the Andhra Pradesh Telecom in 1996-97 to complete the Telecom infrastructure at Dharmajigudem in Churtalpudi Taluk in West Godavari district;

(b) whether it is a fact that undue delay exists in this specific area; and

(c) the status of the representations?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) At Dharmajigudem, 50 cents of Land was taken from R&B Deportment, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh during Dec. '95. Necessary drawings for construction of Telephone Exchange building and 80 M tower were approved during June' 97 Civil estimate is expected soon. Tower material had been partly received at site. The work of Building construction is likely to be started in 1997-98 After construction the UHF system between Chintalapudi and Eluru. dropping 30 Chl. at Dharmajigudem will be installed.